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that the notes will distract the reader's attention. In a book primarily intended for the student it simply wastes time, and to this charge of wasting the time of other students, which the scholar surely ought to wish to avoid, the editors have rendered themselves doubly liable by not printing the page numbers in the notes in a type that will quickly catch the eye.

I would not be understood, however, to imply that the balance of the account stands on the debit side when it is all made up. We have far more to be grateful for than to find fault with in this book. The heaviest charge amounts to no more than to say that the editors have been too sparing of words in proving their conclusions. And even this does not apply to the historical portion of the introduction, which occupies 44 out of 53 pages and gives in detail the procedure of the exchequer, differing in some particulars from the account of the same matter given in the introductory volume of the series published by the Pipe Roll Society.

GEORGE B. ADAMS.

Historical Introductions to the Rolls Series. By WILLIAM STUBBS, D.D. Collected and edited by ARTHUR HASSALL. (New York: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1902. Pp. v, 534.)

FROM the point of view of the general history of England the introductions by the late Bishop Stubbs to the volumes of the "Rolls Series" which he edited are the most valuable of any in the series. They form almost a continuous history of England from the accession of Henry II. to the death of John, full of detailed descriptions of characters and events, and they also discuss in text or notes many important problems. It was a useful thought to put these introductions at the service of the general public by bringing them together in a single volume.

While, however, their mere republication as we have it here is welcome, it is greatly to be regretted that the editor should have confined his editorial duties within such narrow lines. A page and a quarter of preface and five pages of index include his entire contribution to the book. He has not added a note of his own, nor modified a note of the original. References to the best editions of particular sources in print at the time of the writing stand unchanged, though numbers of these have since been superseded by new editions. The bibliographical references are left in a form which is often deceptive, sometimes almost absurd, as in the note on the Pipe Rolls in print (p. 129). The entire literature that has appeared in the period since the original publication is passed over without mention, and the reader would never suspect from anything in this book that new light had been thrown on many of the problems discussed, or that in at least some places the author would surely have reached other conclusions, or phrase differently the statement of his views if he were writing now. It is detracting nothing from the great service which these introductions rendered in their time to the true understanding of English history to say that no one can regret their republication in this form more deeply than Bishop Stubbs himself would have

done. It is particularly to be deplored because the public, to whom the book is chiefly addressed, is so ready to take its history on the authority of great names. Examples abound which might serve as models of the proper sort of editing for such a republication, as, for instance, the editions of the later volumes of Waitz's *Deutsche Verfassungsgeschichte*, which have been published since the author's death.

Disappointed in the body of the book, one turns to the index in the hope that in this he may find the guide he has so often desired to the discussion of men and events scattered through these introductions, but only to be disappointed again. It is difficult to speak with any patience of so inadequate an index. Apparently, the intention was to include the names of all persons of first rank, but in what way could the editor be sure that his judgment would be in accord with that of the reader? Most names of persons of lesser importance are omitted, but a few are inserted, though on what principle it is impossible to say. Errors and omissions occur even under the names admitted to the list, and I hardly expect any one that recalls some of the foot-notes in these introductions to credit the statement that the notes have not been indexed at all. In a few instances a name in the text leads through the index to a note, but otherwise no help is furnished in getting at some of the most valuable portions of the book.

It is possible that the editor may have found his excuse for abandoning his task in the size of the volume, which as it stands is certainly a large book, and one dislikes to object to a choice which includes in this accessible form the essay on St. Dunstan and those on Edward I. and Edward II., though these last are of comparatively little value. If these three had been omitted, however, the book would have had greater unity than it has, limited as it then would be to the reigns of Henry II. and his sons, and the space thus saved for editorial comment and a satisfactory index would have been ample to make the book what it ought to be. Or almost the needed space might have been obtained if the publishers had been persuaded to drop the wholly abominable practice, in which they are chief sinners, of binding up a catalogue of their publications with books of this kind.

Taking all together, one examines this book with mingled feelings. It is a matter of rejoicing that these interesting and valuable essays are brought together into a single volume easy to be procured by any one. It is a matter of great regret that they are not put into a form which would render them as useful to a new generation of students as they were to the generation which had the advantage of their first appearance.

GEORGE B. ADAMS.